

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 THE HA 00843 190945Z

20

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 085939

P 190914Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2982

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 0843

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL

SUBJECT: CENTURION TANKS

REF: STATE 028970

1. IT WOULD TAKE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL COURAGE ON PART OF GON TO AGREE TO ARRANGEMENT WE ARE NOW CONTEMPLATING. CONSIDERING DIFFICULT POSITION GON FOUND ITSELF IN FOLLOWING OCTOBER MIDDLE EAST WAR AND SERIOUS EFFORTS IT HAS SINCE MADE - AND IS STILL MAKING- TO REMOVE ITSELF FROM ARAB DISFAVORED CATEGORY, WE WOULD EXPECT DUTCH BUREAUCRACY WOULD REACT NEGATIVELY TO PROPOSITION THAT NETHS BECOME PARTY TO SUPPLY OF ARMS TO ISRAEL (WHICH IS ROLE ARABS UNJUSTIFIABLY CHARGED DUTCH WITH DURING OCTOBER WAR). BUREAUCRACY WOULD FEAR THAT MOVEMENT OF LARGE NUMBER OF HIGHLY VISIBLE MILITARY ITEMS SUCH AS TANKS COULD NOT BE KEPT FOR LONG FROM PUBLIC DOMAIN AND THAT MEDIA INQUIRIES WOULD UNEARTH FACT THAT CENTURIONS WERE DESTINED FOR ISRAEL.

2. GON HAS ALREADY BEEN HARGED WITH INEPT DIPLOMACY VIS-A-VIS ARABS AND MISMANGEMENT OF IMPACT OF OIL CRISIS ON HOLLAND. ITS SENSITIVITY TO CRITICISM, FROM WHATEVER QUARTER, WILL BECOME EVEN GREATER AS SPRING PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS DRAW NEARER. WERE IT TO AGREE TO CONTEMPLATED US PROPOSAL, GON

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 THE HA 00843 190945Z

WOULD BE RISKING APPLICATION OF ADDITIONAL AND MORE

DRASTIC ARAB OIL MEASURES AGAINST HOLLAND.

3. FOR THESE REASONS WE RECOMMEND THAT US APPROACH, IF DECIDED UPON, BE MADE AT CABINET LEVEL (PREFERABLY TO FONMIN VAN DER STOEL), WHERE BROADEST POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR, AND THAT IT BE ACCOMPANIED BY ASSURANCE THAT US WILL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS POWER TO PREVENT OPERATION FROM BECOMING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

4. PARAS 1-2 OF THIS MESSAGE REFLECT THE VIEWS OF AMBASSADOR GOULD, WITH WHOM SUBECT WAS DISCUSSED BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE ON LEAVE.  
TANGUY

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 FEB 1974  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974THEHA00843  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** THE HAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740223/aaaaavfh.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 74 STATE 028970  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2002 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CENTURION TANKS  
**TAGS:** MASS, NL  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005